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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, July 2, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended June 27 totaled an estimated 18.5 billion ton-miles, 4.1 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

The cumulative volume for the first 26 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 450.3 billion ton-miles, 2.2 percent lower than the comparable period of last year. The decline during the first half of the year was attributable primarily to the 73-day strike by the United Mine Workers.

Carloadings in the week ended June 27 totaled 452,336 cars, 0.6 percent above 1980, and 3.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 8.2 percent in the East, but down 1.6 percent in the South, and 3.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down, but coal loadings were up 8,573 cars, or 7.3 percent, and metallic ores, motor vehicles and equipment, and coke all registered sharp increases. Fourteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended June 20 totaled 34,568 cars, up 9.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 60,852 trailers and/or containers, up 4.1 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 25 weeks of the year was 808,371 cars, 1.0 percent lower than last year, and 1,462,855 trailers and/or containers, down 1.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 6/27/81:

	Loadings in Week ended June 27, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,868	D	4,420	14.6	D	1,814	6.6
Other farm products	3,858	D	896	18.8	D	228	5.6
Metallic ores	39,086	I	5,248	15.5	I	1,339	3.6
Coal	125,906	I	8,573	7.3	I	15,273	13.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,810	D	1,136	7.6	D	63	0.5
Nonmetallic minerals	14,445	D	2,427	14.4	I	1,243	9.4
Grain mill products	13,789	D	3,426	19.9	D	45	0.3
Food and kindred products	16,033	D	2,641	14.1	I	816	5.4
Primary forest products	18,377	D	1,985	9.7	D	409	2.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,682	D	550	6.0	D	227	2.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,078	D	1,821	8.3	I	508	2.6
Chemicals and allied products	25,540	I	915	3.7	D	909	3.4
Petroleum products	4,832	D	588	10.8	D	23	0.5
Stone, clay and glass products	14,064	D	876	5.9	D	50	0.4
Coke	7,143	I	2,981	71.6	D	70	1.0
Metals and products	15,932	I	803	5.3	D	287	1.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,235	I	5,035	33.1	I	341	1.7
Waste and scrap materials	12,124	I	1,925	18.9	D	484	3.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,106	D	887	8.1	I	426	4.4
All other carloads	42,229	D	961	2.2	D	434	1.0
LCL traffic	199	D	1	0.5	D	22	10.0
Total Cars Loaded	452,336	I	2,865	0.6	I	14,881	3.4
Corresponding week of 1980	449,471						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (26 weeks)	10,768,968	11,483,035	D	6.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
25 Weeks cumulative	431.8	442.4	D	2.4
Week ended June 27	18.5	17.8	I	4.1
26 Weeks cumulative	450.3	460.2	D	2.2

AARt-070281